

---

# Maryland Trails: Strategic Implementation Plan (TSIP)

*Connecting people to the places where they live, work and play.*

## Developing a Strategic Implementation Plan for Trails

Maryland's trails are an important piece of its transportation infrastructure – they provide a mobility option, promote a healthy and active lifestyle, create recreational opportunities, and support sustainable economic development. Trails also provide a linkage to housing and businesses making them critical to transit oriented development (TOD), which creates compact and walkable neighborhoods around transit stations.

In response to a growing interest in shared use trails and the benefits they provide, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is leading a comprehensive interagency planning effort to develop a long-term strategic plan that will guide implementation of a seamless trail network throughout the State. Shared use trails are designed to be used by bicyclists and pedestrians, including runners and people with disabilities.

The purpose of the Trails Strategic Implementation Plan (TSIP) is:

- to communicate a vision for trail development in Maryland;
- to provide policy direction for partner agencies and local governments; and
- to outline a coordinated and strategic approach for closing gaps in the existing system of trails, for improving existing trails and supporting eco- and heritage tourism opportunities, and for ensuring smart planning for future trail development.

## Why is the TSIP important?

Marylanders want safe, well maintained trails that provide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to places of interest. Given Maryland's history in pursuing "smart growth," MDOT sees an opportunity for Maryland trails to be utilized more effectively as a practical travel option and wants to encourage and enable trail planners to look beyond traditional recreation purposes. This strategic planning effort will advocate for an integrated Statewide trail system that supports access, mobility, and critical linkages from place to place.

## Who is involved in TSIP?

An inclusive and collaborative process is a hallmark of the TSIP project. We have three tiers of involvement for partner agencies, key stakeholders, and interested advocates.

Advisory Committee – MDOT has invited partner agencies and representatives of local governments to jointly develop the TSIP. These partners will meet at four technical milestones in the TSIP Process. Advisory Committee members represent the following partner agencies:

- Department of Business and Economic Development
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Planning
- Department of Transportation
- Maryland Association of Counties  
Maryland Municipal League
- Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Maryland State Highway Administration
- Maryland Transit Administration

Stakeholder Outreach – MDOT will conduct interviews with key stakeholders across the State as well as with partner agencies involved in Maryland’s trail development in order to gather information on trail issues related to transportation and of Statewide importance. Stakeholder interest groups include bicycle groups, pedestrian groups, Departments of Parks & Recreation, and local governments.

Survey and Website – Anyone who is interested in participating in the TSIP is welcome to complete a survey or provide specific trail input using Google Maps. For up-to-date information and to help identify trail linkages, please visit the TSIP website at: <http://www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning/>

## What will the TSIP do?

Maryland’s TSIP will provide a framework for future decision-making about shared use trails, since they are key to Maryland’s transportation and tourism future. The TSIP will develop:

- Goals that set a broad strategic direction for Maryland’s trail network.
- Objectives that break down the Goals into manageable and specific components.
- Performance Measures to track progress toward the TSIP Goals and Objectives.
- Implementation Strategies that identify specific actions to improve the performance of Maryland’s trail network and attain the TSIP Goals and Objectives.

In addition, the TSIP will inventory existing, planned, and proposed trails throughout the State. Various processes for trail planning, management, and funding will also be assessed.

## What is the TSIP schedule?

The TSIP will be completed by December 31, 2008.

For more information, contact the TSIP Project Manager Sylvia Ramsey at [sramsey1@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:sramsey1@mdot.state.md.us) or visit <http://www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning/>